

MALDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

 **1904,** 

BY

JOHN C. THRESH, D.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

WITH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

MALDON :

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MDCCCIV.

Maldon Rural District Council.

Chairman :

OLIVER D. BELSHAM, Esq., Heybridge.

Vice-Chairman :

T. H. SOLLY, Esq., Mundon.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Elected until April, 1907.

Parishes.	Names of Councillors elected.	Residence.
Althorne.....	Mr. Thos. Fisher ..	Althorne
Asheldham	„ John Hurst.....	Asheldham
Bradwell-on-Sea	„ J. C. Chillingworth ..	Bradwell-on-Sea
Braxted, Great	„ Thos. Coleridge	„
Braxted, Little	„ C. H. C. DuCane.....	Great Braxted
Cold Norton	Vacant	vacant
Crixsea	Mr. Edwin Stevens..	Cold Norton
Dengie	„ W. Rome	Crixsea
Fambridge, North	„ Arthur John Page....	Southminster
Goldhanger	„ R. H. Chaproniere ..	North Fambridge
Hazeleigh	Rev. F. T. Gardner.....	Goldhanger
Heybridge	Mr. Edward Arthur Fitch	Maldon
Langford	„ O. D. Belsham	Heybridge
Latchingdon	„ E. E. Bentall	Heybridge
Mayland	„ Fredk. Wakelin	Langford
Mundon	„ William Robert Laver	Latchingdon
Purleigh	„ G. E. Partridge	Mayland
Saint Lawrence	„ T. H. Solly.....	Mundon
Southminster	„ J. F. Boreham.....	Purleigh
Steeple	„ H. Stevens	Purleigh
Stow Maries	„ M. Turner..	Tillingham
Tillingham	„ Jabez Bishop	Southminster
Tollesbury	„ E. Pipe ..	Southminster
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	Rev. C. S. Morrell	Steeple
Tolleshunt Knights	Mr. E. D. Morgan.....	Stow Maries
Tolleshunt Major	„ Benjamin Dow	Tillingham
Totham, Great ..	„ J. R. Jackson	Tillingham
Totham, Little	Rev. William Basil Anstey	Tollesbury
Ulting	Mr. Frederick C. Banyard	Tollesbury
Wickham Bishops	Rev. R. V. O. Graves	Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Woodham Mortimer	Mr. Frederick W. Blyth ..	Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Woodham Walter ..	„ William Barrett Cocks.	Tolleshunt Major
	„ John Cooper	Great Totham
	vacant	
	Mr. H.N. Falkner	Woodham Walter
	„ E. A. Fairhead	Wickham Bishops
	„ A. Stevens	Woodham Mortimer
	„ S. Ratcliff	Woodham Walter

COMMITTEES.

Highways Committee :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, and Messrs. F. C. Banyard, W. B. Cocks, C. H. C. DuCane, E. A. Fairhead, J. R. Jackson, W. R. Laver, A. J. Page, S. Ratcliff, and F. Wakelin

Finance Committee and Committee to consider Plans for New Works and New Buildings :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, and The Rev. W. B. Anstey, The Rev. R. V. O. Graves, Messrs. F. C. Banyard, E. E. Bentall, F. W. Blyth, W. B. Cocks, C. H. C. DuCane, E. A. Fairhead, W. R. Laver, A. J. Page, E. Pipe, and F. Wakelin.

Water Committee :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, and Messrs. E. E. Bentall, J. Bishop, F. W. Blyth, J. F. Boreham, E. A. Fairhead, T. Fisher, E. A. Fitch, W. R. Laver, E. D. Morgan, E. Pipe, S. Ratcliff, A. Stevens, E. Stevens, and H. Stevens.

Representatives on Maldon Joint Hospital Board :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, The Rev. W. B. Anstey, Messrs. E. E. Bentall, E. A. Fairhead, and S. Ratcliff.

Officers connected with the Service of the Rural District Council.

With Amount of Salary to each per Annum.

Treasurer	..	..	..	C. W. Parker, Esq.	£ nil.
Clerk to Rural District Council			..	Mr. A. W. Freeman	100
Medical Officer of Health	..		..	Dr. Thresh	107
Surveyor of Highways	..		..	Mr. E. J. Ennals	200
Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor			..	Mr. W. Almond	150
Inspector of Water Works	..		..	Mr. M. Philbrick	104

Water Rate Collectors—

Cold Norton and Stow Maries	..	..	Mr. E. T. Pond.
Hazeleigh, North Fambridge, Latchingdon Purleigh, and W. Mortimer		}	Mr. M. Cottee.
Althorne	..	..	Mr. H. E. Nicholas.
Southminster	..	..	Mr. A. S. Kemp.
Tolleshunt Knights	..	..	Mr. W. Hills.

The Collectors are paid a Commission of 15% except those for Purleigh and Southminster who are paid 12½% and 5% respectively.



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MALDON

For the Half-Year ended 31st March, 1904.

[illegible]

LOAN ACCOUNT.

Net Balance brought forward	54	3	11½
Amount of New Loans—			
Waterworks	1950	0	0
Amount transferred from			
General Account	30	7	2
	<hr/>		
	£2034	11	1½

Highways	0	0	0½
Waterworks	98	3	2
Net Balance	1936	7	11
	<hr/>		
	£2034	11	1½

LOANS—AMOUNT OWING.

Amount of Principal owing at commencement of Half Year 19046	9	0	Amount of Principal owing at the end of the Half-year, viz: 31st March, 1904	20559	6	5
Amount of New Loans .. 1950	0	0				
	20996	9				
Principal repaid 437	2	7				
	£20559	6		£20559	6	5

For the Half-Year ended 30th September, 1904.

LOAN ACCOUNT.

LOANS—AMOUNT OWING.

Amount of Principal owing at commencement of Half Year	20559	6	5
Amount of New Loans ..	1450	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22009	6	5
Principal repaid	465	7	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£21543	18	10

Amount of Principal owing at the end of the Half Year, 30th Sept., 1904, viz:—			
Tillingham	359	10	0
Tollesbury	1181	13	4
Southminster	1909	0	0
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	980	16	0
Steeple	110	10	0
Cold Norton	938	9	0
Althorne	1759	19	0
North Fambridge	827	9	0
Hazeleigh	492	6	0
Latchingdon	1895	7	0
Purleigh	3463	18	0
Stow Maries	693	5	0
Woodham Mortimer	1121	11	0
Heybridge	84	0	0
Goldhanger	114	0	0
Tolleshunt Knights	1917	10	0
Bradwell Housing	1450	0	0
Hospitals	450	0	0
Fambridge Ferry Road	1794	15	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£21543	18	10

Notes on Building Bye-laws.

During the past year Rural District Councils have been severely censured for adopting, and attempting to carry out, stringent building bye-laws.

These censures have been commented upon, and approved by, those who ought to know better.

In reply to a deputation on the subject, Mr. Long, the President of the Local Government Board, is reported by *The Times* to have said, that "He has done his best to draw up model building bye-laws suitable for rural districts, but that he has no power to compel District Councils to adopt them."

I desire to point out that it is not what the L.G.B. says but what it does that is of importance, and our experience is contrary to Mr. Long's statement.

After being compelled to adopt L.G.B. model bye-laws in November, 1890, or none at all, we sometime ago prepared others which we considered suitable for our district, but had the greatest difficulty in getting the consent of the L.G.B. to the same, and did not succeed until deputations waited on them and outside pressure had been applied.

Bye-laws are desirable from a sanitary point of view, but there are R.D.Cs. that have not adopted any, because the L.G.B.'s so-called model bye-laws are so unsuitable.

No doubt the officials of the Board are intimately acquainted with the requirements of the country generally, but it is extremely unlikely that they are better acquainted with the sanitary needs of each individual district, than the members of the District and County Councils and their officers.

There are matters which are now controlled by L.G.B. which could with advantage be submitted to County Councils. Both County and District Councils would fully realize and accept responsibilities if they were more free from the control of the L.G.B.

Referring to Sir W. Grantham's remarks about his R.D.C., *The Times* said:—"The description of that R.D.C. may stand as the description of hundreds more."

This I deny. We did not create ourselves, but have been elected under the Act, and whatever may be said of other R.D.Cs., the Maldon Council has always tried to act in the best interests of the inhabitants, and the annual reports of its Medical Officer of Health prove conclusively that as the results of their actions the sanitary condition of the district has marvellously improved.

A great many of our Council give their time and consideration to subjects in which they have not the least personal interest, and I may add we have to do this for nothing while the President of the L.G.B. and all connected with it receive ample salaries.

OLIVER D. BELSHAM, *Chairman.*

MALDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MALDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.

				Population 1901 Census
TOLLESBURY	(11 Parishes)	...	...	7,121
SOUTHMINSTER	(10 „ )	...	...	4,519
MALDON	(11 „ )	...	...	2,993
				<hr/> 14,633 <hr/>

To the Chairman and Members of the Maldon Rural
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in submitting to you the sixteenth Annual Report which I have prepared since I became an officer of your Council, giving an account of the sanitary circumstances of the district, the improvements which have been effected during the past year, the further improvements contemplated or required and an account of the sickness and mortality which has prevailed.

The sickness and mortality statistics, and the general sanitary condition of the district prove fairly conclusively that the sanitary administration is very satisfactory, and that whatever may be said of Rural District Councils in general, either by persons who ought to be intimately acquainted with the duties they undertake and the way in which they discharge those duties, or by persons who are absolutely ignorant of both, your Council cannot be charged either with ignorance, indifference or neglect. Improvements of far reaching importance have been effected during the last 10 or 12 years, improvements which will affect not only the present but future generations, and I am confident that other improvements now contemplated, such as the provision of a water supply for Tollesbury, will at once be taken in hand and be completed without unreasonable delay. I should like, in conclusion, to thank the Council for the courteous way in which they always receive my opinions, even when my arguments do not appear to be conclusive, and to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the readiness with which they always place their time at my disposal when emergencies arise which render it necessary for me to consult them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN C. THRESH.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies generally have received a considerable amount of attention, and the supervision of the public works of supply by a special Committee of your Council has proved very advantageous.

The works at Tiptree for the supply of the Parish of Tolleshunt Knights have been completed and there is now an excellent supply under good pressure along the whole length of main. The water is raised by means of a Canadian Wind-mill from a well in the gravel to a reservoir on higher ground from which it flows by gravitation to supply the parish. At present the water is used by the Britannia Fruit Works, and by the occupants of 32 houses and farms, most of whom obtain it from the stand-pipes at the road sides. The school and four houses, not included in above, will shortly have the water laid on. There are several cottages within the rating area, the tenants of which continue to buy water from a man who carts it round, paying 3d. per week for six bucketfuls delivered at the door. I have enquired into this matter and find that the people taking the water in this way are chiefly aged or infirm who cannot carry buckets of water 40 or 50 yards from a stand-pipe and who prefer to pay a small sum weekly rather than a water rate. In these cases I think your Council should insist upon the water being laid on to the premises as six buckets of water (12 to 15 gallons) is not an adequate supply for a cottage for a week.

The mains are about three miles in length and already extensions are suggested. There are several farms just outside the parish without water and a dozen or more houses in Tolleshunt D'Arcy parish, which could be supplied at a comparatively small expense. There are also a fair number of houses in Chapel Road, Tiptree, which may require water. It would not be wise to make any arrangements for extending the mains until the actual demand in the parish during the coming summer is ascertained. There is a superabundance of water at present, the pumping of the whole of the water supplied having no appreciable effect upon the water level in the well, but during the summer the yield will be less and the demand may greatly increase. Horse gear has been fitted for use should there be a prolonged period of calm.

The cost of the works will, I understand, slightly exceed the amount of the Loan sanctioned by the L.G.B. viz: £1,950. The works are a great boon to the district, which previously was waterless, and I hope that the expense will be found to be very reasonable.

The Purleigh District works are proving most satisfactory, the yield of the springs being in summer far in excess of the demand. The Local Government Board has sanctioned a further Loan of £1050 for the extension of the mains in Hazeleigh, Latchingdon and Purleigh parishes. Many dairy farms have had the water laid on greatly to their advantage. In fact these farms could not have been used for dairy purposes had there not been this public supply. During the summer, complaints were received that the supply was not sufficient at Althorne (the most distant point, some eleven miles from the reservoir) but this was found to be due to the irregularity of the pumping, the reservoir not being filled up every day. When this was done, the supply was ample. There can be few districts in this country which were worse off for water than this, and that such a thinly populated agricultural district can be supplied with an abundance of water, at what under the circumstances must be regarded as a reasonable cost, was practically undreamt of until your Council carried out this scheme. That it is such a success is a matter for congratulation. The maximum amount of water used in one month was in August and September when 672,000 gallons were pumped on 28 consecutive days, an average of 24,000 gallons per day to supply about 560 houses and farms. The maximum demand therefore is under 50 gallons per house or farm per day. The average for the year is only about half this quantity, 25 gallons per house.

The Southminster Waterworks supplying this parish and a few cottages in Asheldham near the pumping station, also continues to provide an abundant supply. No complaints of any kind have reached me during the year.

The public wells generally have been kept in repair. The Goldhanger well has been deepened and put in proper repair, but for some reason the surroundings have not been completed satisfactorily. This will be done shortly and a cover put over the deep well pump to prevent anything getting into the well through the opening for the pump rod.

In August an application was made to the L.G.B. for sanction to a Loan of £140 for reconstructing the Star Well, Steeple. This has since been obtained and the work should be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

At Tolleshunt Major an arrangement is being made with the New England Co. to utilize a small spring for the supply of a group of houses now without water within a reasonable distance.

At Mundon an arrangement is being made for acquiring a deep well and after reconstructing the upper portion rendering it available for the public. Certain persons object to this on the ground that it would be better to extend the water mains from Purleigh into the parish. This is a question chiefly of expense which has not yet been considered.

At Tillingham the amount of available water of good quality is very limited. There are six public pumps and at the end of June I examined samples of water from each. The wells at the corner of Maldon Road and in the Square respectively, yielded water loaded with nitrates and otherwise quite unfit for domestic use. The Brook Pump simply yields brook water, exceedingly liable to pollution. The water from the pump in the Marsh Road was not satisfactory. The only really good water was that from the pump near the Cricket Ground and which is the one most used. The well in Vicarage Lane yielded a water which was turbid and contained flocculent matter, otherwise it was of good quality. A copy of the report was sent to the Tillingham Parish Council, but they have not expressed any wish to have an improved supply.

Tollesbury has suffered from two outbreaks of Typhoid Fever during the year, consequently greater attention has been given to the water supply. This is at present derived from shallow wells in the gravel. None of these wells yield a really good water and the amount is very limited. The public wells do not yield sufficient even for flushing the sewers. The parish has a population of about 1750, and the completion of the Railway connecting it with the Gt. Eastern main line at Kelvedon is bound to result in an increase in the population. The line is being extended to the Waterside, and when this is finished there will be two stations in the parish. The well which used to supply water for the yachts has failed, the water probably having been carried away by the trench in which the new sewer is laid. A proper supply of water is imperative in view alike of the health of the inhabitants and the prosperity of the town. The responsibility rests upon your Council and in view of the urgent requirements and the repeated outbreaks of fever not a moment's unnecessary delay should be permitted. The supply will almost certainly have to be derived from a deep well and arrangements should be made for a trial boring forthwith.

There is a bored well on the Marshes, the water from which I examined some years ago and found to contain an excess of salt, but there was no doubt that marsh water was gaining access to the well. The water is only used for cattle. My opinion is however that water of good quality, the same as that at Steeple to the South, and Wyvenhoe and Brightlingsea to the North-East, could be obtained at a depth of about 300 feet.

It is also desirable when considering this question to remember that the village of Tolleshunt D'Arcy is supplied with water from wells which yield water of very indifferent quality and that the amount available is somewhat limited.

There are several parishes with deficient supplies, for example Mayland and Creeksea. In both these places the inhabitants or land owners have expressed a desire to have the water mains extended from Althorne, but at present no arrangement has been made. In some parishes the Public Elementary Schools have no supplies and water has to be carted from a distance.

A deep well has been sunk on Osea Island and yields an alkaline water of good quality.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

There are few villages in the district of such a size as to require a system of sewers, those included in this category being Heybridge, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Tollesbury, Southminster and Tillingham. In all these there are sewers carrying away the liquid sewage from the proximity to the houses, but in Heybridge and Southminster the sewage is not conveyed to one or two common outfalls. At Heybridge there are several outfalls into a tidal creek, but as no nuisance arises therefrom the condition may be considered sufficiently satisfactory. At Southminster the various outfalls terminate in ditches and are a constant cause of complaint, especially one on the Tillingham Road. To sewer this village would be a somewhat expensive matter as the more recent extensions are on the opposite side of the hill to the older portion of the village. More supervision should be exercised over these outfalls and more frequent cleansing of the

ditches effected. Even were this to cost £50 per annum it would be vastly cheaper than providing a new system of sewers and maintaining a sewage works. The parish is very healthy and has a public water supply and the necessity for any large expenditure for sewerage work may be postponed for a considerable period by a comparatively small annual outlay.

Tolleshunt D'Arcy was sewered some years ago, and the sewage here, as also at Tillingham, is disposed of effectually by irrigating a small area of land. This is far less trouble and much less expensive than any other system would be.

The Tollesbury sewage works got out of order early in the year. the coke beds becoming choked with solid matter. After long delay, the coke was removed and the beds made up again with fresh material. Since then they have worked satisfactorily. The scavenger has become better acquainted with the management of the works and it is hoped that they may work for a much longer period without again requiring re-construction. The tidal valve at the end of the effluent outfall is defective and allows tidal water to back up. This is now being remedied. The road from the Coast Guard Station has been sewered and speedily gave rise to complaints of smells coming from the man-holes and ventilating shaft. As these complaints continued I had all the man-holes opened and examined the condition of the sewer. It was found to contain a large quantity of solids, and it was obvious that a considerable length of the sewer had been full of sewage and that in the manholes it had been three or four feet in depth. I wished to see the sewer flushed, but the well constructed at the end of the new sewer to supply water for flushing purposes only yielded a few gallons of water and the scavenger said that he could not obtain sufficient water for the purpose from any of the wells. This is a very unsatisfactory condition, which can only be remedied by the provision of a water supply.

In other parishes where short lengths of sewers and house drains have caused ditch-nuisances a determined effort has been made to effect an improvement. Several such nuisances which have given trouble for years have been permanently abated, but others, at Althorne and Latchingdon especially, where special difficulties occur have not yet been satisfactorily dealt with.

A stream at Tiptree is polluted by house drainage, effluent from a brewery and drainage from a slaughter-house. More efficient supervision, and the greater care exercised by the brewers and butcher prevented any serious nuisance arising during the summer, notwithstanding the exceedingly low rainfall.

Osea Island was during the summer the scene of labour of a number of the unemployed. Temporary buildings were used for their accommodation, but if the number of houses increases and there is an influx of people during the summer the question of sewage disposal will require consideration.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.

Scavenging is done by contractors at Heybridge Basin, Tollesbury and Southminster and in all cases this work appears to have been done in a satisfactory manner. Bye-laws with reference to the removal of house refuse, cleansing of cesspits, etc., are in force over the whole district with the exception of Tollesbury. Although not strictly enforced the number of nuisances arising from neglect is not very great. Pail closets are extensively employed, and comparatively few houses are without sufficient ground upon which to dispose of all the waste matters produced. The heavy nature of the soil over a considerable portion of the district renders it somewhat difficult to dispose of slop water, and apparently such soil does not readily effect the destruction of cesspit contents.

Housing of the Working Classes.

The six cottages erected at Bradwell under the H.W.C. Act are approaching completion. All have three bedrooms. The area of land acquired was one acre (cost £45). The total cost is estimated at £1445 or £240 per cottage. I am afraid that unless cottages can be erected at much less than this, the problem of the housing of the agricultural labourer is as far off solution as ever. No doubt in Bradwell the cottages will let easily as there are many barge-men and others in this parish who can afford to pay more rent than an ordinary agricultural labourer. The erection of a row of cottages for the use of the Coast Guardsmen, and another row for the labourers on an estate has greatly improved the general condition of the housing in this parish and from being one of the worst it will become one of the best parishes in the district so far as the housing of the labourer is concerned.

There are many parishes in which small wooden or lath and plaster houses abound, very few of which have three bedrooms and in a considerable proportion of those with two bedrooms, one is so small or so constructed as to be really unfit for such use. There are also many cottages which having been built on damp sites and without damp proof courses, are always more or less damp. Few old houses have any paved area behind, but practically all are sufficiently exposed, having abundance of air space around. Two houses have been formally represented to be unfit for human habitation and in each case the tenants removed and the houses were closed.

The great want of the district, a want felt in almost every parish is that of cottages with three decent bedrooms. These are really wanted more than Isolation Hospitals and money expended in providing the former would reduce the necessity for providing the latter. An Isolation Hospital can only be used for two or at most three diseases, diseases which cause no appreciable mortality in the district, whilst spacious cottages would help to arrest the spread of all infectious diseases, especially Measles and Whooping Cough which cause far more deaths than all the notifiable diseases put together. Overcrowding with all its attendant evils, physical and moral would be prevented and the labourer and his family be thus enabled to lead a cleaner and happier life. Some serious cases of overcrowding have been detected and abated but the large majority of such cases cannot be dealt with without driving the families out of the district, probably to overcrowd elsewhere.

Early in the year the modified Building Bye-laws were sanctioned by the L.G.B., but it is too early to ascertain whether the alterations permitting of somewhat cheaper cottages being erected will have the desired result.

Tent and Van Dwellers.

These people congregate on the heaths at Totham and Tiptree and have given rise to many complaints. Boards have been erected in prominent positions at both these places directing attention to the bye-laws now in force. Their tents, vans and sheds have been inspected several times and in two gross cases of infringement of the bye-laws legal proceedings were ordered to be taken. This was not done promptly and the owners moved on. It is found however that

it is a simple matter to obey the letter of the bye-laws without effecting any great improvement and your Council has approached the Lords of the Manors of these heaths in the hope that they may be able to assist in preventing complaints arising from such encampments. I have no doubt however that if the new Inspector exercises strict supervision over the tents and vans, the nomads who occupy them will give the district a wide berth. Already the number camping on the plains appears to have decreased. Only the other day however a tent infringing two bye-laws was found fixed up close by the notice board stating that such shelters must be reasonably waterproof and have a dry flooring ; the tent was not waterproof and had no flooring.

Places over which the Council exercises Supervision.

WORKSHOPS, ETC. These are visited during the systematic inspection, as are also the homes of the outworkers. These are found only in two parishes, Tollesbury and Tolleshunt D'Arcy, 21 in the former and 13 in the latter. All the families are employed in making men's clothing for two firms in Colchester.

The two knackers' yards have given no cause for complaint.

The bake-houses generally have been considerably improved. The chief defects arose from the roof being open and covered with cobwebs, and from uneven floors. Some were used as lumber rooms. I think all the defects found have been remedied and the places are kept tidier and cleaner.

The slaughtering of animals has caused several nuisances. In one instance pigs were slaughtered in an open yard. The blood was allowed to drain into a ditch and the offal was exposed on a dung hill. In another all the offal was thrown into a small enclosure adjoining the only entrance to the slaughter-house and in this enclosure a number of pigs were kept. When the abominable conditions were described, as they appeared to me, to the offenders, their limited knowledge of sanitary science was increased to such an extent that promises were made, and kept, to abate the nuisances forthwith and prevent their recurrence.

Dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. Many in the Purleigh district have had water laid on, much to their advantage. The cows are kept up during the winter months, but during summer are

only brought into the sheds for milking. The farmers and their men do not yet see the necessity for perfect cleanliness in the production of milk and until they fully realize its importance it is hopeless to expect any beneficial effects from the adoption of bye-laws. I am not certain even that education alone will effect the desired improvement, the most potent force will be the pecuniary one. When the large milk dealers refuse to purchase milk unless the conditions under which it is produced are perfectly satisfactory the farmers will speedily observe these conditions, and when magistrates insist upon having a high standard of quality, chemical and bacteriological, and failure to reach this standard is followed by a substantial penalty, that standard will be reached. So long as milk of poor quality and bacteriologically unclean, produced in dirty overcrowded cowsheds, from cows with dirty udders milked by men with dirty hands, and conveyed in cans washed in polluted water, is passed by the public analysts as being up to some low standard, so long will these conditions prevail. When the quality as well as the quantity is made to regulate the price, we shall have pure clean milk supplied, and if the middle man has to be satisfied with a little less profit or the consumer has to pay a little higher price, the public generally will benefit.

I do not wish it to be thought that matters are worse in this district than in others, for the contrary is the case. More care is being taken, but not nearly sufficient care.

PEA-PICKERS AND FRUIT-PICKERS. A large number of people came into the district to pick peas, strawberries and other fruit. The fruit-pickers have never given any trouble or given rise to complaint. A better class of people appear to be employed in picking fruit than in picking peas and they usually lodge in the houses around. On certain farms tents were provided for the pea-pickers, but no other arrangements were made for their convenience. When the question of bye-laws was considered some time ago it was not thought necessary to adopt them.

Systematic Inspection.

So many changes have occurred during the year that this work has not been done so well as usual. In the first instance a change was made whereby Mr. Ennals, previously Surveyor and Inspector for the southern district, became road Surveyor for the whole district, and

Mr. Keywood, formerly Engineer for the whole district and Surveyor and Inspector for the northern district became Engineer, Surveyor and Inspector for the whole district. At that time he was supervising the construction of the waterworks at Tolleshunt Knights, the erection of the cottages at Bradwell and other works, consequently sufficient time was not given to systematic inspection.

The previous sections have indicated many of the defects found during the time of inspection, therefore little remains to be added. Two filthy houses gave a good deal of trouble but ultimately both were cleansed. Houses in which 'holiday' children were received had especial attention. One child was found to be suffering from an infectious skin disease and infected children in the village. One of the hardships which may result from the detection of nuisances may be referred to. At a certain cottage a drain defect was found and notice served on the owner to re-lay the drain. This gentleman alleged that the tenant had been complaining and promptly raises the rent from £5 5s. to £7 per annum, at the same time telling him that if he did not like to pay the increased rent he must quit. No other house being available the tenant had to pay the increased rent. At the next visit the water troughing was found to be defective causing the side of the house to be damp. The tenant implored us not to serve a notice as he would certainly be turned out and as he could not get another cottage he would have to leave the district and be thrown out of employment. I am glad to say such cases are very exceptional. It is given as an instance of the difficulties which occur in improving the sanitary conditions of rural districts and to emphasize the necessity for increased cottage accommodation.

The arrangement which will date from the beginning of the new year, whereby one person, just appointed, will give his whole time to the work of Inspection and supervision of new buildings should result in nuisances being more promptly abated than heretofore. He will also be able to devote more time to the supervision of houses in which cases of infectious diseases occur and to personally carry out the work of disinfection.

A list of the Officials of the Council will be found at the beginning of this report.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The subjoined list shews the number of cases of infectious illness notified during the year together with the parishes in which they occurred.

Parish.	Small Pox.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.
Southminster ...					1	1
Steeple ...						
Asheldham ...						
Bradwell ...				28		28
Hazeleigh ...				2		2
Langford ...		1				1
Latchingdon ...		1		1		2
Mundon ...				5	1	6
Purleigh ...				1		1
Ulting ...			1			1
Woodham Walter ...				1		1
Goldhanger ...				4		4
Great Braxted ...						
Great Totham ...		1	1			2
Heybridge ...		2	1	11	1	15
Little Totham ...				5	1	6
Tollesbury ...			13			13
Tolleshunt D'Arcy ...			1	1	1	3
Tolleshunt Knights					1	1
Tolleshunt Major ...			3			3
Wickham Bishops ...						
Althorne ...		4				4
Totals...		9	20	59	6	94

DIPHTHERIA. Only nine cases were notified, four of which occurred in Althorne in January. The first case occurred in a large but excessively damp house, since condemned as unfit for human occupation. Apparently some infected child attended a children's party held on January 9th, as soon after there was an outbreak of "sore-throat," in some cases simulating mumps, in others Diphtheria. The throats of a large number of children were examined, but only

in four cases was the diphtheria bacillus found. The first case proved fatal, the others fortunately recovered. This death was the only one recorded from any of the notifiable diseases.

In April two cases occurred in one house at Heybridge, the infection being introduced by a convalescent patient from East Ham. Another patient appears to have contracted the disease in London, and another was attacked just after visiting outside the district.

TYPHOID FEVER. Of the 19 cases which occurred no less than 13 were in Tollesbury and several more were in adjoining parishes. The Tollesbury cases occurred in several families who were either related or on friendly terms. Two cases occurred in January, one in February, five in March, two in April, one in May, one in October and one in December. The disease has practically been prevalent throughout the year. In March I concluded that the infection was being spread by unskilled nursing and four nurses were engaged and placed in charge of the patients, as a serious epidemic was threatened. The result was in every way satisfactory. Every patient recovered and until October no fresh case occurred. The October and December cases were both bargemen who were much away from home and it was impossible to say how they became infected. The prevalence of this disease in a parish entirely dependent upon polluted wells for its water supply and with insufficient water to flush the sewers is significant. All the other cases notified appeared to be in no way connected with the Tollesbury cases or with each other. Nearly all occurred in houses with unsatisfactory water supplies. One patient had drunk water from a sewage-polluted stream, another had eaten water-cress from a roadside ditch. No case appeared to be due to shell-fish.

SCARLET FEVER. The only epidemic which has occurred was at Bradwell, when the infection was introduced in September. One case occurred towards the end of the month and was carefully isolated. Towards the end of the following month some infected child must have attended school as a sudden outbreak occurred amongst the scholars and the schools had to be closed.

In other districts together with the cases of true Scarlet fever were many others which could not be definitely diagnosed as such. These cases caused a great deal of anxiety. In one family four adults were ill and were being attended by two medical men. The nature of the illness was doubtful, and my assistant (Dr. Pugh) and

myself met these gentlemen at the house and together we examined the cases. There could be no doubt that the illness was of an infectious character and in some respects like Scarlet Fever, but as two of the patients had previously had this disease and the earliest case was shewing no signs of desquamation there is no question that the disease was not Scarlet Fever. On this point we all agreed. One definitely diagnosed Influenza, the others reserved their opinions.

A similar series of cases occurred just before Christmas in Great Totham and Wickham Bishops.

There have been many more such cases both in this and adjoining districts. A similar outbreak has recently been described by Dr. Hamilton in the *British Medical Journal*: He calls the disease Erythema Scarlatiniforme (Influenzal).

DIARRHŒA. An outbreak of illness of which diarrhœa was the most marked symptoms occurred in the parish of Tolleshunt Major. Practically in all cases there was a feeling of nausea followed by vomiting which lasted one to two days then diarrhœa set in and lasted from two to three days to a fortnight and was associated with a certain amount of abdominal pain. Unfortunately such outbreaks are only accidentally discovered. I only heard of this at the end of February and upon investigating it found that it had commenced just before Christmas and that most of the cases occurred early in January. The public well had been repaired just before the outbreak occurred and for a few days the water is said to have had an 'inky' appearance. Whilst this was the popularly assigned cause, families were discovered who had suffered yet had not used water from this well.

INFLUENZA. Whether the above epidemics, one associated with sore-throat, fever and an evanescent rash, and the other with vomiting and diarrhœa were different types of Influenza or not is difficult to say, but a more typical form of the disease occurred in the late autumn in Tillingham and led to the schools being closed for a short period.

MUMPS. During the first quarter of the year about 100 cases of Mumps occurred in the parish of Bradwell. In April a large number of cases occurred in Heybridge and Goldhanger. In January about 30 children were absent from the Southminster School from this cause. In no instance did I consider it necessary to close the Schools.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH. Whilst Whooping Cough has caused three deaths and Measles four deaths, all the other infectious diseases have only caused one death. If it is wise to spend thousands of pounds in providing hospitals and maintaining them for diseases which cause so few deaths it certainly should be worth the expenditure of even a larger sum to control the ravages of these diseases which every year cause a far larger mortality. I admit that they are more difficult to deal with but something could be done. Notification has been tried, and has been found useless, probably because no action was taken systematically after the receipt of the notification. Moreover the experiment has chiefly been tried in urban districts where the population is much denser than in rural districts. My views as to the best means of procedure are at present somewhat vague, and I am hoping that more thought and increased experience may result in definite conclusions being arrived at. When this occurs I shall make them known so that they may be considered and acted upon if thought practicable.

School Closure.

The Schools closed on account of the prevalence of the above-mentioned diseases are as under :—

District.	Disease prevalent.	Period of closure.
Dengie	Measles	Feb. 25 to March 10
Purleigh	Whooping Cough	May 25 to June 5
Latchingdon	Measles	June 3 to 18
Bradwell	Scarlet Fever	Oct. 27 to Nov. 12
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	Measles	Nov. 4 to Nov. 26
Woodham Walter	Measles	Dec. 8 to 23
Tillingham	Influenza	Dec. 1 to 12
Tiptree	Measles	Dec. 13 to 23

SKIN DISEASES. An outbreak of scabies occurred amongst the children attending one school and was with difficulty eradicated as the parents would not consult a doctor or follow my advice. Some of the infected families were 'Peculiar People' and the effect of their prayers was not so prompt as that of my sulphur ointment. A few cases of Impetigo occurred in another parish the disease being introduced by 'holiday' children.

ANTHRAX. Early in the year I received a letter from the M.O.H. for the County of London relative to the carcass of a bullock which had been seized in one of the markets and which was believed to have suffered from anthrax. Upon making enquiries I found that some swine which had eaten the offal from the bullock had been killed and buried on account of their suffering from anthrax and also that the man who had dressed the bullock was suffering from the disease.

Mortality Statistics.

TABLE I.—DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.—The deaths registered in the district were 192, but to these must be added 11 which occurred in the Workhouse, making a total of 203. The death-rate per thousand is therefore 13·8 which is nearly 1 below the average for the last seven years.

DEATHS OF INFANTS.—The number of births recorded during the year is considerably higher than usual, 408 against an average of 360. The birth-rate therefore is 27·8, the highest recorded since 1894 when it was 28·9. The number of infants who died before attaining one year of age was only 26, corresponding to 64 per thousand births. This is the lowest rate we have ever recorded.

TABLE II.—This Table gives the births and deaths in the three sub-registration districts, from which the following rates are calculated.

	Death-Rate.	Birth-Rate.	Infantile Mortality
Southminster district ...	13·9	27·4	48·3
Maldon „ ...	15·3	29·	103·
Tollesbury „ ...	11·4	27·5	56·

The infantile mortality in the Maldon sub-district has been very excessive, but as it was excessively low in 1903, the two years together are about the average.

TABLE IV.—This Table gives the causes of and the ages at death. It will be noted that nearly half the people who died exceeded 65 years of age. Cancer caused 12 deaths, or four less than in the preceding year. Tubercular diseases caused 19 deaths, of which 12 were from Consumption. This is about one per thousand per annum, a not excessive rate, but one which could be reduced. Accidents and suicide are responsible for 10 deaths, an excessive number for such a district as this.

JOHN C. THRESH,
M.O.H.

TABLE I.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	17,800	522	28.9	46	90	266	14.2	0	0	26	292	16.1
1895	17,700	438	24.1	47	107	250	13.8	0	0	20	270	14.9
1896	17,600	498	27.5	55	110	223	12.2	0	0	19	242	14.3
1897	17,500	435	23.8	41	89	219	11.9	0	0	28	247	13.5
1898	14,800	357	24.1	42	118	231	15.6	0	0	23	254	17.2
1899	14,700	362	24.6	41	113	214	14.6	0	0	9	223	15.2
1900	14,600	355	24.3	40	113	198	13.6	0	0	23	221	15.1
1901	14,630	380	26.0	34	89	171	11.7	0	0	13	184	12.6
1902	14,630	347	23.7	36	104	206	14.0	0	0	22	228	15.5
1903	14,630	359	24.5	25	70	154	10.5	0	0	28	182	12.4
Averages for years 1898—1903.	14,672	360	24.5	36	101.	196	13.3	0	0	20	215	14.7
1904	14,680	408	27.8	26	63.7	192†	13.0	0	0	11	203	13.8

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

† Including unknown Sailor washed up by the sea.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11. By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in Public Institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere. The “Public Institutions” taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made is given below.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 81,860.

Total population at all ages, 14,630.

Number of inhabited houses, 3463. } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house, 4.2

I.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.

The Isolation Hospital, Heybridge.

II.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.

The Maldon Union Workhouse.

TABLE II.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1.—SOUTHMINSTER.				2.—MALDON.				3.—TOLLESBURY.			
YEAR.		Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1898	...	4600	111	95	19	3080	84	49	9	7200	164	109	14
1899	...	4570	104	71	13	3050	79	27	3	7170	179	125	25
1900	...	4540	113	75	15	3030	64	48	10	7140	178	98	15
1901	...	4518	107	67	13	2993	99	34	9	7120	174	83	12
1902	...	4520	110	68	13	2990	70	56	9	7120	167	103	14
1903	...	4520	110	50	9	2990	80	41	3	7120	169	91	13
Averages of years 1898 to 1903	...	4544	109	71	13	3110	79	42	7	7145	172	101	15
1904	...	4520	124	63	6	2990	87	46	9	7170	197	82	11

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table are areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, namely—registration sub-districts.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are included in sub-columns *c* of this table.

TABLE III.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	Years.					South-minster.	Maldon. H.	Tollesbury.	South-minster.	Maldon.	Tollesbury.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							65 and upwards.
Small-pox	
Cholera	
Diphtheria	...	1	4	3	1	...	4	2	3	...	...	...
Membranous croup	
Erysipelas	4	2	1	1	4	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	19	29	5	7	...	28	10	22	...	5	7	
Typhus fever	
Enteric fever	...	1	6	3	8	...	...	1	18	...	...	2
Relapsing fever	
Continued fever	
Puerperal fever	
Plague	
Totals	...	1	21	39	11	20	2	33	14	47	...	5	9

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
The locality in which the Isolation Hospital is situated, is marked H.
Isolation Hospital in Heybridge Parish, opened in December, 1903.

TABLE IV.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES.			DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 & upwards.	Southminster.	Maldon.	Tollesbury.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Epidemic influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Enteritis	3	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	3	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)... ..	12	...	...	2	2	7	1	5	3	4	...
Other tubercular diseases	7	1	2	2	1	1	...	3	1	3	1
Cancer, malignant disease	12	...	...	...	...	5	7	4	2	6	...
Bronchitis	16	2	...	1	...	2	11	6	1	9	...
Pneumonia	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Pleurisy	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...
Venereal diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Premature birth	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	28	...	...	...	1	8	19	9	8	11	1
Accidents	8	...	1	2	1	3	1	3	...	5	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...
All other causes	75	9	4	1	1	10	50	20	20	35	9
All causes	191	26	13	11	6	42	93	62	46	83	11